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United States Patent [19]**Schuster et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,616,817**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 1, 1997**[54] **PREPARATION OF 1,2-PROPANEDIOL**

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 C07C 31/20

[52] U.S. Cl. **568/861**

[58] Field of Search 568/861

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BASF patent specification OZ 0050/40557 (equivalent to
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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A process for the preparation of 1,2-propanediol by catalytic hydrogenation of glycerol at elevated temperature and elevated pressure, which comprises using glycerol having a water content of up to 20% by weight and a catalyst comprising the metals cobalt, copper, manganese and molybdenum in amounts of, based on the total weight of the catalyst,

from 40 to 70% by weight of cobalt,

from 10 to 20% by weight of copper,

from 0 to 10% by weight of manganese and

from 0 to 10% by weight of molybdenum,

where this catalytically active material may additionally contain inorganic polyacids and/or heteropolyacids in an amount of up to 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the catalyst.

1 Claim, No Drawings